

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for optimizing traffic volume in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a first file;  
parsing a header portion of said file to find a reference header;  
extracting an identifier of a second file in said reference header;  
determining a nearest location to retrieve said second file based on said identifier; and  
10 retrieving said second file based on said determining.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said extracting step includes the step of:  
determining a tag associated with said reference header; said tag including said identifier and an address to download said second file.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a nearest location includes the steps of:  
examining a local cache for a copy of said second file;  
examining said reference header for a server address to download said second file if said local cache does not include said second file; and  
extracting an address of a sender of said first file if said reference header does not include said server address.

25 4. A method for optimizing traffic volume in a communication network, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a first file having a first identifier;  
generating a tag for said first file based on said first identifier;  
embedding said tag in a second file;  
creating an association to said tag in a reference header of said second file;  
30 assigning a second identifier to said second file; and  
sending said second file.

35 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:  
determining a nearest address to download said first file; and  
including said nearest address in said tag.

6. A method for optimizing traffic volume in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a first file;

parsing a header portion of said first file for a reference header;

extracting an identifier to a second file based on said reference header;

examining a local cache for a copy of said second file; and

10 updating said reference header to include an address to said local cache if said copy of said second file is in said local cache.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said extracting step includes the step of:

determining a tag associated with said reference header; said tag including said identifier.

15 8. A computer program product for optimizing traffic volume in a communications network, comprising:

20 logic code for receiving a first file;

logic code for parsing a header portion of said file to find a reference header;

logic code for extracting an identifier of a second file in said reference header;

25 logic code for determining a nearest location to retrieve said second file based on said identifier; and

logic code for retrieving said second file based on said determining.

9. The computer program product of claim 8, wherein said logic code for 25 extracting includes:

logic code for determining a tag associated with said reference header; said tag including said identifier and an address to download said second file.

10. The computer program product of claim 8, wherein said logic code for 30 determining a nearest location includes:

logic code for examining a local cache for a copy of said second file;

logic code for examining said reference header for a server address to download said second file if said local cache does not include said second file; and

logic code for extracting an address of a sender of said first file if said reference header does not include said server address.

11. A computer program product for optimizing traffic volume in a communication  
5 network, comprising:

logic code for receiving a first file having a first identifier;

logic code for generating a tag for said first file based on said first identifier;

logic code for embedding said tag in a second file;

10 logic code for creating an association to said tag in a reference header of said second file;

logic code for assigning a second identifier to said second file; and

logic code for sending said second file.

12. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:

15 logic code for determining a nearest address to download said first file; and

logic code for including said nearest address in said tag.

13. A computer program product for optimizing traffic volume in a communication  
20 network, comprising:

logic code for receiving a first file;

logic code for parsing a header portion of said first file for a reference header;

logic code for extracting an identifier to a second file based on said reference  
header;

25 logic code for examining a local cache for a copy of said second file; and

logic code for updating said reference header to include an address to said local  
cache if said copy of said second file is in said local cache.

14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein said logic code for  
30 extracting includes:

logic code for determining a tag associated with said reference header; said tag  
including said identifier.